Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A switching device comprising:
at least one line card;
at least one switching card, wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane connector coupled to the switch element; and

a mid-plane coupled to the at least one line card and the at least one switching card wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to each other, wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane, wherein the at least one card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port, wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a plurality of mid-plane subconnectors, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) ~~The switching device of claim 7~~ A switching device comprising:

at least one line card;

at least one switching card; and

a mid-plane coupled to the at least one line card and the at least one switching card wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to each other, wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane, wherein the at least one line card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port, wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane connector coupled to the switch element; wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises plurality of mid-plane subconnectors.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method for configuring a switching device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mid-plane; and

providing at least one switching card and at least one line card on the mid-plane, wherein the at least one switching card and the at least one line card are perpendicular to each other, wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane, wherein the at least one line card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port, wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane

connector coupled to the switch element, wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a plurality of mid-plane subconnectors, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 16~~ A method for configuring a switching device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mid-plane; and

providing at least one switching card and at least one line card on the mid-plane, wherein the at least one switching card and the at least one line card are perpendicular to each other; wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane; wherein the at least one line card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port; wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane connector coupled to the switch element; and wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises a plurality of mid-plane connectors.

18. (canceled)